

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

P. O. Box 942898

Sacramento, California 94298-0001

(916) 657-7156

(800) 735-2929 (TT/TDD)

(800) 735-2922 (Voice)

**98-14**

May 29, 1998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SACRAMENTO, May 29—Top officials of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and the California Trucking Association (CTA) reinforced the objectives of a major truck safety campaign when they addressed media at the Antelope Scales east of Sacramento this morning.

CHP Commissioner Dwight Helmick said his department is “concentrating on excessive speed and other rules-of-the-road violations, as well as truck driver condition, based on studies that show fatigue is a growing contributor to crashes.”

Joel Anderson, executive vice-president of CTA, voiced his organization’s strong support for safety measures, and welcomed joint CHP/CTA ventures such as training and instructional seminars designed to help commercial vehicle operators and drivers.

The safety campaign is already under way in several CHP field jurisdictions, and Helmick noted that “each field division will develop individualized approaches. One division is experimenting with an 800 number to encourage citizen reports of truck problems.”

Helmick said that enforcement plans call for tactical use of radar and aircraft. Roving commercial officers will increase their range to locate trucks that take routes around fixed scale locations, and the number of specially marked patrol vehicles probably will be increased, Helmick said.